



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 376

January Session, 2007

Substitute House Bill No. 7247

House of Representatives, April 5, 2007

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. VILLANO of the 91st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT DESIGNATING CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES AS THE STATE'S COORDINATING AGENCIES TO REDUCE CHILD POVERTY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) Community action agencies,
2 under chapter 319yy of the general statutes, shall coordinate
3 community efforts at the local level aimed at reducing child poverty
4 and achieving the goal set by the Child Poverty and Prevention
5 Council, established under section 4-67x of the general statutes, as
6 amended by this act, to reduce child poverty in this state by fifty per
7 cent by June 30, 2014. On or before July 1, 2008, and annually
8 thereafter, the community action agencies, through a designated
9 representative, shall report to the Child Poverty and Prevention
10 Council on their community efforts at the local level to reduce child
11 poverty.

12 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 4-67x of the general statutes is
13 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*

14 1, 2007):

15 (a) [(1)] There shall be a Child Poverty and Prevention Council
 16 consisting of the following members or their designees: The Secretary
 17 of the Office of Policy and Management, the president pro tempore of
 18 the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the minority
 19 leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the House of
 20 Representatives, the Commissioners of Children and Families, Social
 21 Services, Correction, Mental Retardation, Mental Health and Addiction
 22 Services, Transportation, Public Health, Education, Economic and
 23 Community Development and Health Care Access, the Labor
 24 Commissioner, the Chief Court Administrator, the Chairman of the
 25 Board of Governors for Higher Education, the Child Advocate, the
 26 president of the Connecticut Association for Community Action, the
 27 chairperson of the Children's Trust Fund and the executive directors of
 28 the Commission on Children and the Commission on Human Rights
 29 and Opportunities. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and
 30 Management, or the secretary's designee, shall be the chairperson of
 31 the council. The council shall (1) develop and promote the
 32 implementation of a ten-year plan, to begin June 8, 2004, to reduce the
 33 number of children living in poverty in the state by fifty per cent, and
 34 (2) within available appropriations, establish prevention goals and
 35 recommendations and measure prevention service outcomes in
 36 accordance with this section in order to promote the health and well-
 37 being of children and families.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2007	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2007	4-67x(a)

KID Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

HS

HS Joint Favorable Subst.

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Requiring community action agencies (CAA's) to coordinate community efforts to reduce child poverty and submit an annual report on their efforts is not expected to result in a state or municipal fiscal impact. There would be no state or local obligation to support resulting costs, if any, incurred by these private nonprofit organizations.

No fiscal impact will ensue in response to adding the president of the Connecticut Association for Community Action to the Child Poverty and Prevention Council. Members are not entitled to reimbursement for expenses.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7247*****AN ACT DESIGNATING CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES AS THE STATE'S COORDINATING AGENCIES TO REDUCE CHILD POVERTY.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill makes the state's 11 community action agencies (CAA) the coordinators of local efforts to reduce child poverty. It appoints the president of the Connecticut Association for Community Action, Inc. Agencies to the state's Child Poverty and Prevention Council. By law, the council coordinates these efforts on a statewide basis to further the statutory goal of reducing child poverty by 50% by June 30, 2014.

The bill also requires a CAA-designated representative to report community child poverty reduction efforts to the council annually. The first report is due July 1, 2008.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007

BACKGROUND***Community Action Agencies***

Community action agencies are a network of federally-designated public or private nonprofit anti-poverty agencies (CGS § 17b-885). Eleven CAAs provide services to people living in all regions of the state including programs for:

1. employment and job training,
2. financial literacy and money management,
3. early childhood education and youth development,
4. housing and shelter, and

5. energy assistance.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 6 Nay 3 (03/06/2007)

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/22/2007)